

Amendments to the Claims:

A clean version of the entire set of pending claims (including amendments to the claims, if any) is submitted herewith per 37 CFR 1.121(c) (3). This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

1.-13. (Cancelled).

14. (Currently Amended) An optical element, comprising:
~~an~~ at least one layer having a substantially radially uniform thickness disposed about the optical element,
wherein the optical element further comprises a grating.

15. (Currently Amended) An optical element as recited in claim 14, wherein said ~~optical element is an optical fiber~~
grating is a Bragg grating.

16. (Currently Amended) An optical element as recited in claim 14, wherein said at least one layer is chosen from the group consisting essentially of: ~~metals[[],]~~and metal-alloys~~[[],]~~ ~~non-metals, dielectrics, semiconductors, and piezoelectric materials.~~

17. (Original) An optical element as recited in claim 14, wherein one of said at least one layers is an adhesion layer.

18. (Original) An optical element as recited in claim 17, wherein said adhesion layer is chosen from the group

consisting essentially of: Cr, Cr₂O₃, Al₂O₃, Ti, and Si₃N₄.

19. (Original) An optical element as recited in claim 16, wherein said metals and metal-alloys include: Pt, Au and Ni:Cr.

20. (Currently Amended) An optical element as recited in claim [[16]]40, wherein said piezoelectric ~~materials~~ include material is one of: ZnO, AlN, PZT, PLZT and LiNbO₃.

21. (Original) An optical element as recited in claim 14, wherein said substantially uniform thickness has radial uniformity in the range of approximately 95% to approximately 99%.

22. (Original) An optical element as recited in claim 1, wherein said thickness is in the range of approximately 1 μm to approximately 100 μm .

23. (Currently Amended) An optical element as recited in claim 15, wherein said optical ~~fiber is a fiber Bragg grating~~ element is an optical fiber.

24. - 35. (Cancelled)

36. (New) An optical element as recited in claim 14, wherein said at least one layer is a non-metal.

37. (New) An optical element as recited in claim 14, wherein said at least one layer is a dielectric.

39. (New) An optical element as recited in claim 14,
wherein said at least one layer is a semiconductor.

40. (New) An optical element as recited in claim 14,
wherein said at least one layer is a piezoelectric
material.